In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for trimming birefringence of an integrated optical device with at least one waveguide having a birefringence characteristic, comprising the steps:

- providing at least one electrode on top of the waveguide;
- applying power equal to or above a predetermined power level to said at least one electrode for causing an irreversible birefringence change of the waveguide.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, characterized by the step:

- measuring the birefringence change, preferably with said at least one electrode by supplying electrical power to said electrode.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, characterized in that said predetermined power level is 0.8 W/mm.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, characterized in that said integrated optical device is an optical filter device.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, characterized in that said integrated optical device is a thermo optical device.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, characterized in that said optical filter is an Mach-Zehnder Interferometer or a ring resonator.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, characterized in that said electrode is provided as a metal electrode, preferably as a chromium heater electrode.

8. (Currently Amended) An optical device for switching or filtering light passing a waveguide having a birefringence characteristic, characterized in that the waveguide has been

treated by providing at least one electrode on top of the waveguide and applying power equal to or above a predetermined power level to said at least one electrode for causing an irreversible birefringence change of the waveguide ~~according to a method of any of claims 1 through 7 as to change its birefringence irreversibly~~.

9. (Currently Amended) The optical device of claim 8, characterized in that said waveguide has a core layer sandwiched between a cladding layer, wherein both layers are made of a silica based material and the cladding is highly doped with a material adapted to balance stresses for TE and TM polarization modes.

10. (Currently Amended) The optical device of claim 8 ~~or 9~~, characterized in that it is a Mach-Zehnder interferometer.

11. (Currently Amended) The optical device of claim 8 ~~or 9~~, characterized in that it is a ring resonator.